

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

301307Z Jan 02

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ2470

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 A-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00  
DS-00 EUR-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 LAB-01  
VCE-00 NSAE-00 TEST-00 USIE-00 IIP-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02  
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W

-----5F6533 301319Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0836  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HARARE 000274

SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX, ROBERTSON, SCHLACHTER, AF/S FOR KRAFT,  
AF/P/P, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [Z1 PREL PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT ZIM PRESIDENTIAL POLL; HARARE

[1](#)1. UNDER HEADLINE "EARLY ARRIVAL OF OBSERVERS COULD END  
LOSS OF MORE LIVES," THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE DAILY NEWS"  
DEDICATED ITS JANUARY 28 EDITORIAL TO CALL ON THE  
GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TO COME INTO  
THE COUNTRY AT LEAST A MONTH BEFORE THE MARCH 9 AND 10  
PRESIDENTIAL POLL. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

[1](#)2. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED ITSELF AGAINST VIOLENCE  
AND  
COMMITTED ITSELF TO ALLOWING INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS  
DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. HOWEVER, IF IT IS  
SINCERE, IT SHOULD INVITE THESE OBSERVERS AT LEAST A  
MONTH BEFORE THE 9 AND 10 MARCH VOTING DAYS FOR THEM TO  
MAKE AN INFORMED OPINION OF THE POLL AND TO UNDERSTAND  
THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT WILL BE TAKING PLACE. AN EARLY  
ARRIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WILL EITHER SEE A  
SUDDEN DE-ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE, LARGELY BY THE RULING  
PARTY SUPPORTERS AND MILITIAS, OR IF THIS DOES NOT  
HAPPEN, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL THEN HAVE A  
BALANCED APPRECIATION OF WHAT WILL HAVE DETERMINED THE  
OUTCOME OF THE VOTE. . .IF THE GOVERNMENT IS GENUINELY  
COMMITTED TO ALLOWING INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, AND IF  
IT IS NOT BEHIND THE CURRENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE, THEN IT  
SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN INVITING THEM TO COME INTO  
THE COUNTRY MUCH EARLIER SO THEY CAN SEE WHAT IS REALLY  
HAPPENING. AND IF IT IS ASSURED OF WINNING, THE MORE  
REASON IT SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS VICTORY NOT  
BEING TAINTED BY CHARGES OF INTIMIDATION, VIOLENCE AND  
FRAUD. . .IT IS ALSO IMPERATIVE THAT THE OBSERVERS DO  
NOT FLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY THE RESULTS OF  
THE ELECTION ARE ANNOUNCED. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN  
THE INTENSITY OF VIOLENCE THAT FOLLOWS AN ELECTION  
RESULT. INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS SHOULD BE

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HERE AT LEAST FOR TWO MONTHS - ONE MONTH BEFORE, AND  
ANOTHER AFTER THE RESULTS. THIS IS CRITICAL BECAUSE IT  
WILL SAVE THE LOSS OF MORE LIVES."

SULLIVAN

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